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City pursues DUI offenders, not to the delight of all



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At A Glance

DUIs on the rise

In the last 12 months the Salt Lake County Sheriffs Office policed Cottonwood Heights, it reported 118 arrests for suspected DUI. The Cottonwood Heights Police Department, established in September 2008, reported 215 DUIs in its first 12 months.

Sources: Unified Police Department, Cottonwood Heights Police Department

Latest In Utah News

By Nate Carlisle The Salt Lake Tribune

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Cottonwood Heights • This town is known for its location against the mountains just minutes away from ski resorts. Now its police are gaining a reputation for cracking down on drunken drivers.

In the two years since Cottonwood Heights left the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office and began its own police force, officers have been arresting suspected drunken drivers at twice the previous rate.

Cottonwood Heights Police Chief Robbie Russo said that his department has focused on drunken drivers and requires every officer — from beat cops to detectives — to undergo special training on administering DUI tests. Russo said that even he has stopped three or four suspected impaired drivers since Cottonwood Heights began its own police department in September 2008.

"DUIs and crimes against women have always been near and dear to me," said Russo, saying he thinks about the safety of his own two daughters on the road.

Yet one bar owner thinks some of the arrests are designed to hurt his business. Canyon Inn owner Jim Stojack has accused police of targeting his business by frequently pulling over people in his parking lot and following customers as they leave his bar and grill, which sits at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Stojack calls it "harassment" and said customers are afraid of being stopped by police. He said May sales have declined 47 percent from the same month in 2009.

Cottonwood Heights

What Constitutes a DUI

Officers CAN NOT stop a driver for DUI alone
Officer must have Reasonable Suspicion of another Offense
Examples:

- Unsafe Lane Change
- Speeding
- Not Signalling Turn
- Stop Sign
- Red Light

DUI is proven by EITHER:

- Blood/Breath Alcohol Content >.08 (otherwise called a Per Se violation)
 OR
- Impairment by Alcohol (regardless of BAC, unsafe/unfit to operate a vehicle)



	Number of drinks consumed per hour 2								
Weight	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
100	.04	.08	.11	.15	.19	.23	.26	.30	.34
120	.03	.06	.09	.12	.16	.19	.22	.25	.28
140	.03	.05	.08	.11	.13	.16	.19	.21	.24
160	.02	.05	.07	.09	.12	.14	.16	.19	.21
180	.02	.04	.06	.08	.11	.13	.15	.17	.19
200	.02	.04	.06	.08	.09	.11	.13	.15	.17
220	.02	.03	.05	.07	.09	.10	.12	.14	.15
240	.02	.03	.05	.06	.08	.09	.11	.13	.14

Published on September 14, 2010 by Sgt. Chris Gebhardt For more information, contact chris@chpolice.org (801) 944-7100 www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

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